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## PEAK BELL RINGERS.

They Entertained the Public Many Years Ago.

Not many people are aware that in the house at 354 South First street is living a bright, entertaining old man, who for forty years won popularity and fame among music-loving people in the United States and Canada as the head of the Peak family of Swiss bell-ringers, says the Brooklyn Eagle. His eighty-eight years weigh lightly upon his shoulders, for in general health and activity he is the peer of many a man nearly two-score years his junior, and his touch on the keys of the piano and organ is delightfully graceful and true.

Indeed, it may be said that William M. Peak is thoroughly enjoying his ripe old age in that happy musical atmosphere which always buoyed him up through life, and which still seems to fill all his recollections of the past and thoughts of the present with the spirit of melody.

"I must tell you," resumed Mr. Peak, "how I came to organize my family into a troupe of Swiss bell-ringers. It was in the early fifties, and all my children were able to perform well on the harp and other musical instruments, while my wife had gained fame everywhere with her soprano voice. You see we were a thoroughly musical family, some of my children having appeared in public when they were only 3 or 4 years old. Well, Barnum had just brought out some bell-ringers from Switzerland, and I saw and heard them at his American museum in New York. From that moment I was enthusiastic over Swiss bell-ringing, and, importing my own bells from Switzerland, I organized the family troupe, which gained almost instantaneous popularity and distinction.

"We had other musical features, of course, but the bells were our chief features. Sometimes we had fifteen or seventeen persons in the troupe. My family consisted of seven—namely, my wife, myself, and my five children, William, Edward, Julia, Fanny, and Lorette. My wife and Lorette are dead. William is in the West in company with his brother Edward. Julia is in Boston and Fanny is in Milwaukee. All my living children are still professional and successful musicians.

"My own work is done, except that I still play a little for my own entertainment, and once in a while for old friends. We often played in Brooklyn twenty years ago and more, both at this end of the town and down by the city hall, and at the Athenaeum on Atlantic avenue. One of the places we played in here is now the Novelty Theater, but in the old days it was a public hall, known first as the Odeon and afterward as the Apollo rooms. When I came here over ten years ago I became greatly attached to the Rev. Dr. Almon Gunnison, then the pastor of All Souls' Universalist Church, and I am a member of that church to-day. I am glad to let my friends know that I am not broken down or feeble."

## WRITING ON THE SKY.

Signaling Device Which Promises to Be of Great Utility.

The virtues of an electric monogram signal have already been referred to in these columns. The device is a sort of typewriter delivering its message, letter by letter, in midair, or at any distant point, in gigantic characters of light. The observers may be miles away and yet read the message with ease. The keyboard is manipulated exactly as in an ordinary typewriter and its function is to switch in or direct the current through a series of distributing wires, which are carried in a cable to the monogram or display frame. According to a predetermined scheme the keys exercise a selective function, and each one switches in the leading wires only, which connect with the members of the monogram constituting the letter of the alphabet which that particular key represents.

By reference to the monogram one may easily trace any letter of the alphabet in form so nearly conventional as to be readily understood. Thus, if on the keyboard the A button is pressed the letters of all the members of the monogram entering into that letter shine out simultaneously, while all other lamps upon the display frame remain dead. And so on for every letter. The observer has only to follow the letters as they flash out one after another to spell out the words of the message. It will be seen that this is a sort of a visual telegraph, and that it may be made to talk in almost any language spoken by man. It is also serviceable for cipher writing according to any prearranged code. The monogram frame is five feet high by three and one-half feet wide and is equipped with 16-candle power lamps. Signals flashed from this frame are visible to the naked eye for distances of from one to three miles, depending on the weather. With a glass the signals may be easily read up to ten miles. Some frames are made much larger and can be seen further.—Electrical Review.

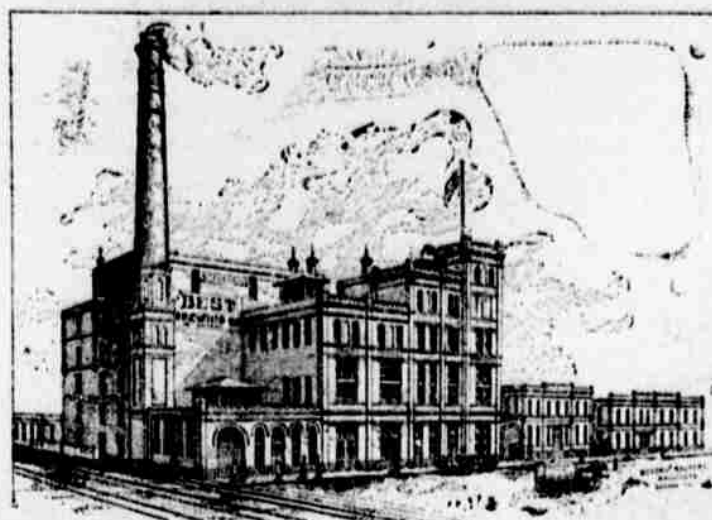
## Tennessee's Oil Fields.

Over \$500,000 has already been invested in the new and wonderfully rich oil fields in Northern Tennessee. The Standard Oil Company has secured options on thousands of acres, and the inhabitants are in a state of mild excitement over the great enhancement in the value of their land.

Muggins—Do you think the north pole will ever be found? Higgins—I didn't know it was lost.—Philadelphia Record.

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